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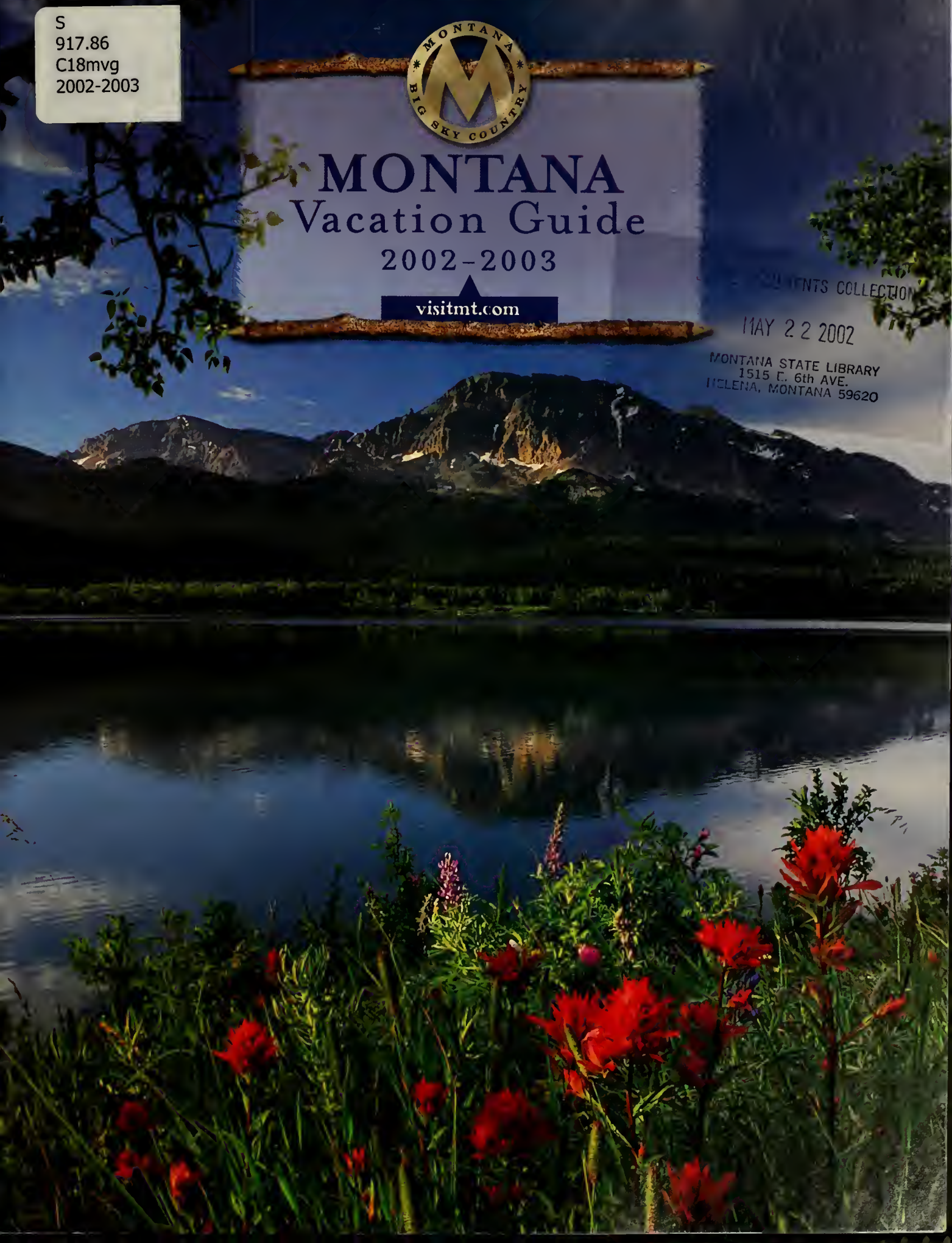

MONTANA
Vacation Guide
2002-2003

visitmt.com

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In Montana, the welcome is as big as the sky.

Montana is a state built on a grand scale. It all starts with Montana's nickname: Big Sky Country, a name inspired by the expanse of blue that stretches overhead.

But Montana is more than big skies—it's a land of big adventure.Wildlife abounds in millions of acres of public lands such as Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park, wilderness areas, state parks and national forests. Crystal clear lakes, rivers and streams exist side by side with inspiring mountains and plains of green. Numerous cultural attractions such as stops on the Lewis & Clark Trail, as well as museums, theaters and more, spread across the state.

And everywhere, some 900,000 smiling faces are waiting to greet you. Welcome to Montana, and enjoy your stay.

Governor Judy Martz

Above: Governor Judy Martz and her husband, Harry Martz (Sandy Newton)
Below: Confluence of the Missouri and Marias rivers (Wayne Mumford)
Opposite: Cooling off in Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park (Scott Spiker)

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You'll see many amazing sights in this guide. And to find out even more about any of those sights, we suggest a site: **visitmt.com**. With this as your printed guide and **visitmt.com** as your virtual guide, you'll be able to see all that the great state of Montana has to offer; you'll even be able to make your vacation plans and access detailed information about Montana attractions, accommodations and more. To help you find your way through the information at **visitmt.com**, this guide has "Virtual View" sidebars throughout it. Just consult the sidebars to find specific web-based information on the topics discussed here. So combine the pages of this guide with the pages of **visitmt.com**, and we'll look for you soon.

Travel Montana
1424 9th Avenue, P.O. Box 200533
Helena, MT 59620-0533
800-VISIT MT (800-847-4868)
or 406-444-2654
TDD: 406-444-2978

Please note: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these listings, but changes sometimes occur after publication. Travel Montana cannot be held liable in the event of errors or omissions.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided to disabled individuals upon request.

Cover photo: Douglass Dye
St. Mary Lake, Glacier National Park

All Montana phone numbers are reached by area code 406.

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SIX DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN ONE STATE

Montana is a big state with dramatically different landscapes. The state is divided into six vacation regions, each with attractions and scenery that live up to its name. For more specific information on a particular region, or to request a regional guide, please contact the countries listed below.

GLACIER COUNTRY

800-338-5072 • 406-837-6211

Crowned by the awe-inspiring peaks of Glacier National Park (open year-round), Glacier Country is a trophy case of nature's best work. Experience Flathead Lake (the West's largest natural freshwater lake), the National Bison Range, wilderness areas, two Indian reservations, giant cedar forests, ski resorts, numerous world-class golf courses, missions and much more.

glacier.visitmt.com

GOLD WEST COUNTRY

800-879-1159 • 406-846-1943

Treasures of gold brought miners to the area last century; today, natural treasures continue to bring visitors. See preserved gold rush towns from the 1860s, such as Virginia City/Nevada City and Bannack, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park, the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, the Missouri River's "Gates of the Mountains," and historic cities such as Helena and Butte.

goldwest.visitmt.com

RUSSELL COUNTRY

800-527-5348 • 406-761-5036

The land named for cowboy artist Charles M. Russell is still a work of art today. Alongside scenes of snowcapped mountains and the mighty Missouri River, you'll find the C.M. Russell Museum, the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, the nation's largest ancient buffalo jump, two Indian reservations, historic battlefields and more.

russell.visitmt.com

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

800-736-5276 • 406-556-8680

Bordering Yellowstone National Park is a land filled with the wild and wonderful. Outdoors, you'll find famous fly fishing rivers, wilderness areas, forests and three ski resorts: Big Sky, Bridger Bowl and Red Lodge Mountain. If you want to go inside, you can tour historic downtowns or visit Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies for its world-class dinosaur collection.

yellowstone.visitmt.com

1. Glacier Country
2. Gold West Country
3. Russell Country
4. Yellowstone Country
5. Missouri River Country
6. Custer Country

Map provided for general information only. For accurate and detailed information, pick up an Official Montana Highway Map at local chambers or visitor centers, or call 1-800-VISITMT (847-4868).

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

800-653-1319 • 406-653-1319

The giant Fort Peck Lake offers an amazing 1,500 miles of shoreline—as well as boating, fishing and camping. Four wildlife refuges encompass more than a million acres of wildlands for elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep and waterfowl. Culturally, there are numerous museums, as well as the Fort Union Trading Post and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

missouririver.visitmt.com

CUSTER COUNTRY

800-346-1876 • 406-628-1432

General Custer made his last stand here at Little Bighorn Battlefield. Lewis and Clark left the only remaining physical evidence of their journey at Pompeys Pillar (Clark's signature). There is much to explore here with the pictograph caves, historical museums and mansions, ZooMontana, Makoshika State Park, Bighorn Canyon and two Indian reservations.

custer.visitmt.com

Fast Facts about Montana

• Montana Population: 882,779 (1999 U.S. Census estimate)
• Land area: 145,392 square miles • Water area: 1,746 square miles • Total area: 147,138 square miles

"It is the land, the weather, the history, the people...and it's the way these elements blend together...Montana is a symphony. It is a symphony of color, and it is a symphony of sounds."
- Mike Mansfield

True landscape art isn't created on canvas.

Jagged mountains of granite. Rolling green plains. Crystal-clear lakes and refreshing streams. They are all here in Montana. Add teeming populations of wildlife and you complete the picture of Big Sky Country, a landscape rich in scenes of natural wonder.

Montana is home to two national parks: Glacier and Yellowstone. Glacier Park is known for its inspiring peaks, backcountry hikes and the aptly named Going-to-the-Sun Road, a 52-mile excursion across the crest of the Continental Divide. Yellowstone, the world's first national park, features erupting geysers like Old Faithful, majestic waterfalls, petrified forests and roaming bison, elk and other wildlife. But national parks aren't the only scenic treasures in the Treasure State. For every spectacular acre in Glacier or Yellowstone, there are millions more in our other public lands: national forests, state parks, wilderness areas and wildlife refuges. Montana's state parks offer recreational opportunities from boating and camping to wildlife watching. Nine national

visitmt.com

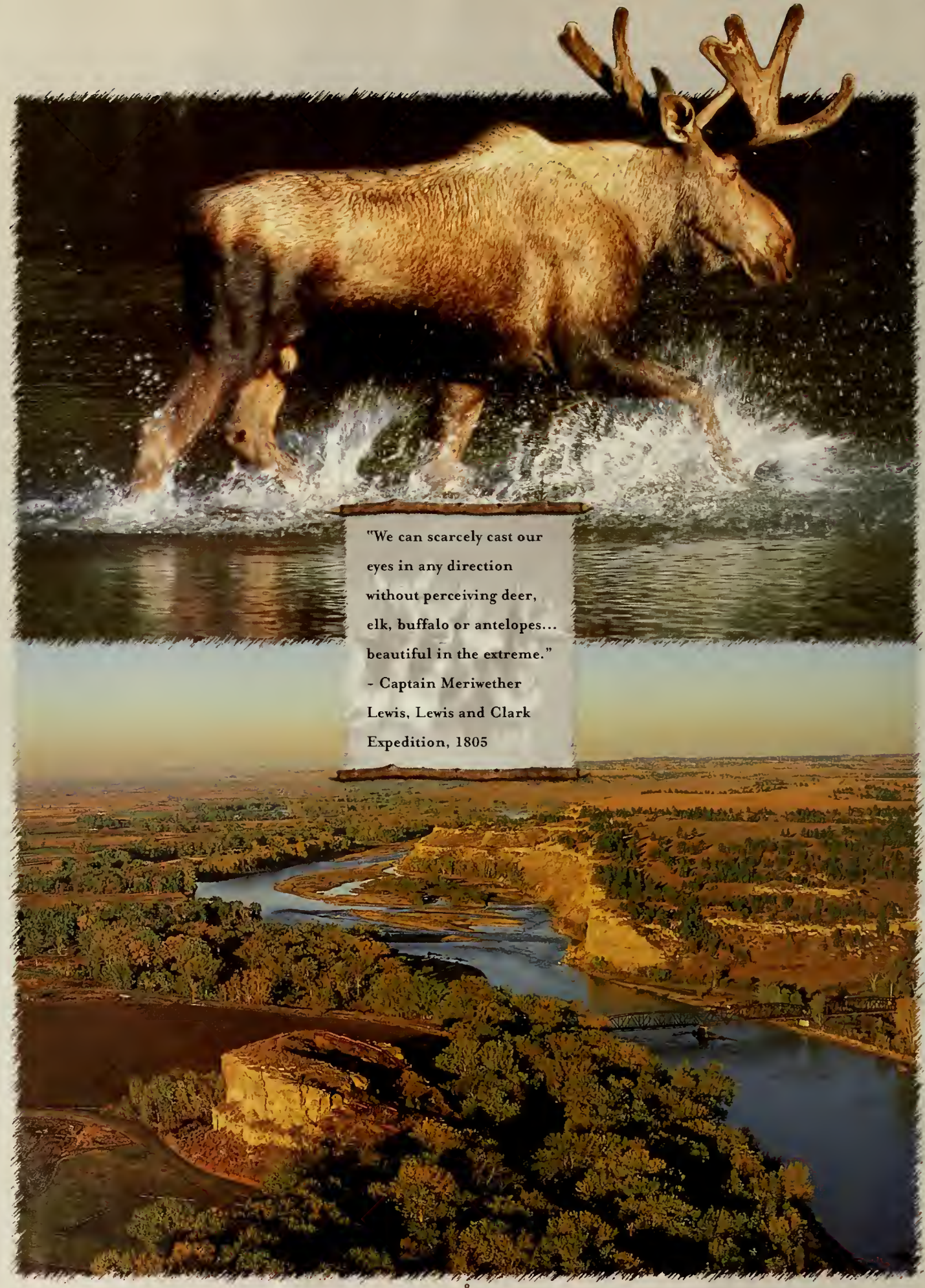
Why not share the scenic wonders of Montana with your friends? Just go to visitmt.com/virtualvisitor/ and send electronic postcards to anyone with an e-mail address. The online "Virtual Visitor" center also includes plenty of Montana photos, great desktop photos for your computer, Montana recipes, Montana facts and much more.

Opposite: Blue heron (Donald M. Jones), pasqueflowers (Rodney Schlecht), St. Mary's Lake in Glacier National Park (Donnie Sexton). Above: Rocky Mountain Front near Choteau (Rodney Schlecht)

forests are filled with roads and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Montana's wildlife refuges preserve habitat for thriving populations of waterfowl, big game and other creatures. And, Montana protects millions of acres of scenic splendor in some of the nation's most famous wilderness areas, including the Bob Marshall and the Absaroka-Beartooth. But land and sky aren't all that's big in Montana. The state is filled with pure waters as well—ranging from some of the world's most famous blue-ribbon trout streams to deep, turquoise lakes. Earth, sky, water. Those are the elements revered by this land's native peoples. Those were the elements that brought Lewis and Clark—and subsequent explorers—to Montana. And, they are the elements that continue to attract adventurers today. Montana is a special kind of place—a place where magnificent landscapes exist untouched by the hands of man, awe-inspiring testaments to the design of nature.

Above: Tower Falls, Yellowstone National Park (Carol Polich). Opposite: Bugling elk (Donald M. Jones), sandstone formation near Jordan (Larry Mayer), Big Hole Valley (Wayne Mumford)

Montana is, quite literally, a natural state. That's thanks in no small part to a wealth of state parks; you'll find 41 of them, ranging from ghost towns to badlands. To find out more, surf to fwp.state.mt.us



"We can scarcely cast our eyes in any direction without perceiving deer, elk, buffalo or antelopes... beautiful in the extreme."
- Captain Meriwether Lewis, Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1805

Wild wildlife: Montana is home to the most grizzlies in the continental United States, and has the largest herds of migratory elk and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in North America. And you thought your neighbors were wild.

Montana's natural beauty isn't limited to its scenery, however. You'll find a greater variety of wildlife in Big Sky Country than anywhere else in the lower 48 states. Antelope, elk, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, eagles and trumpeter swans call Montana home, as well as "celebrity" species like grizzly bears and wolves. Montana is active in the national "Watchable Wildlife" program, which helps to educate people about native species. Sites offering particularly noteworthy wildlife viewing opportunities are marked all across the state; just look for the brown and white "binocular" signs. A companion viewing guide is available in bookstores.

visitmt.com

Wild about wildlife? Find out more about some of the animals you can see in Montana at wildlife.visitmt.com. This watchable wildlife site tells you all about dozens of animals in Montana, complete with photos and maps. You'll also get some good pointers on when and where to watch for wildlife, as well as information on Montana's ecosystems and habitat areas. After you're done with the virtual viewing of wildlife, come visit us to see the real thing.

To give yourself the best chance at seeing wildlife, follow a few basic tips. First, bring a good map and a field guide. A map can tell you the best places to find the animals you want to see, while a field guide will help you identify various species. Next, keep a safe distance so you don't scare or endanger the animals (or yourself). Bring field binoculars or a spotting scope to help you get an "up close" look without actually getting close. Finally, know when animals are most active. Experts say the best time to see wildlife is right at dawn or dusk; you're less likely to see wildlife during the heat of the day. With a little homework and a careful eye, you'll be able to see wildlife all across Montana.

Opposite: A wading moose (Donald M. Jones), Pompeys Pillar near Billings (Larry Mayer). Above: Grizzly bear (Donald M. Jones), fall colors near Bozeman (Carol Polich)

Find out about the state of the arts in the state of Montana. Just go to state.mt.us/art/ to read about what's happening with the Montana Arts Council. You'll also find links to cultural resources.

Montana re-creates its past at more than 230 unique museums, ranging from one-room schoolhouses to full-scale interpretive dinosaur exhibits.

The culture is as rich as the history.

The West. Two words that paint pictures in the mind: vast ranches beneath snow-capped peaks, cattle in flowered meadows, rugged cowboys in dusty leather saddles.

Those visions of the West can be traced back to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which spent more time in Montana than any other state. The stunning Lewis & Clark Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls tells the story of the expedition and the Indian people living here at the time.

Trappers soon followed, leaving historical landmarks such as the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site near Fairview.

Following the trappers were the "black robes"—missionaries who established numerous missions in the state (including the first, St. Mary's Mission at Stevensville).

Then came the miners in search of gold. Cities such as Helena, Red Lodge, Butte and others still reflect a rich mining heritage. Historical Virginia City and Nevada City are national treasures detailing Montana's "gold rush" era.

Today, Montana hosts many historic events which celebrate these

visitmt.com

The Big Sky on the Big Screen

A few of the many movies filmed on location in Montana include *A River Runs Through It, Always, Beethoven's 2nd, Broken Arrow, Cattle Queen of Montana, Far and Away, The Horse Whisperer, Little Big Man, The River Wild, Thunderbolt and Lightfoot, The Untouchables, What Dreams May Come* and others. Find a complete list at film.visitmt.com

Opposite: Mountain music (Dusan Smetana), roundup time (Donnie Sexton). Above: St.Mary's Mission (John D. Fecteau), Fort Peck Theatre (Donnie Sexton)

and other historic stories. Reenactments, such as the Battle of the Little Bighorn ("Custer's Last Stand"), bring you face-to-face with Montana's past. History even meets culinary creations at Lewistown's Charlie Russell Chew-Choo dinner train.

Speaking of Charlie Russell, the C.M. Russell Museum Complex in Great Falls has the world's most complete collection of his art. The Charles M. Bair Family Museum in Martinsdale also features an eclectic collection of art and crafts.

But perhaps the richest history and culture of all belong to the Indians. Today, the state is home to seven Indian reservations and 12 tribes, and many more attractions detailing the history of Montana's tribes. The Museum of the Plains

Indian in Browning, the Chief Plenty Coups State Park in Pryor, the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Culture Center in Poplar and "The People's Center" in Pablo are all important cultural institutions. For more information on Montana's reservations, visit indiannations.visitmt.com.

Opposite: Bannack State Park near Dillon, rodeo time in Augusta (photos, Donnie Sexton). Above: Big Hole Battlefield (Lee Kaiser), dancer at Red Bottom Celebration, Frazer (Donnie Sexton)

The pages of history literally come alive on the web. Check out some excerpts from the Montana Historical Society's extensive collection of magazines and books online at visitmt.com

Our western heritage is also preserved at places like Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge. Here, the history of Montana's vast cattle ranching industry from the 1850s on is told. Many other historical attractions offer links to our roots, as well. For instance, elegant mansions, such as William Clark's in Butte, Marcus Daly's in Hamilton, the Conrad Mansion in Kalispell and the Moss Mansion in Billings, offer a glimpse into the lives of Montana's early residents.

Even now, our western spirit is very much alive and well. Many of the state's cultural attractions blend the West of yesterday with that of today. The Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings offers important works of western art, and is the largest art facility in a four-state region. The Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman retraces geologic history with dinosaurs and other exhibits. Theaters and performing arts complexes across the state host concerts, ballets, symphonies and many other artistic endeavors year-round.

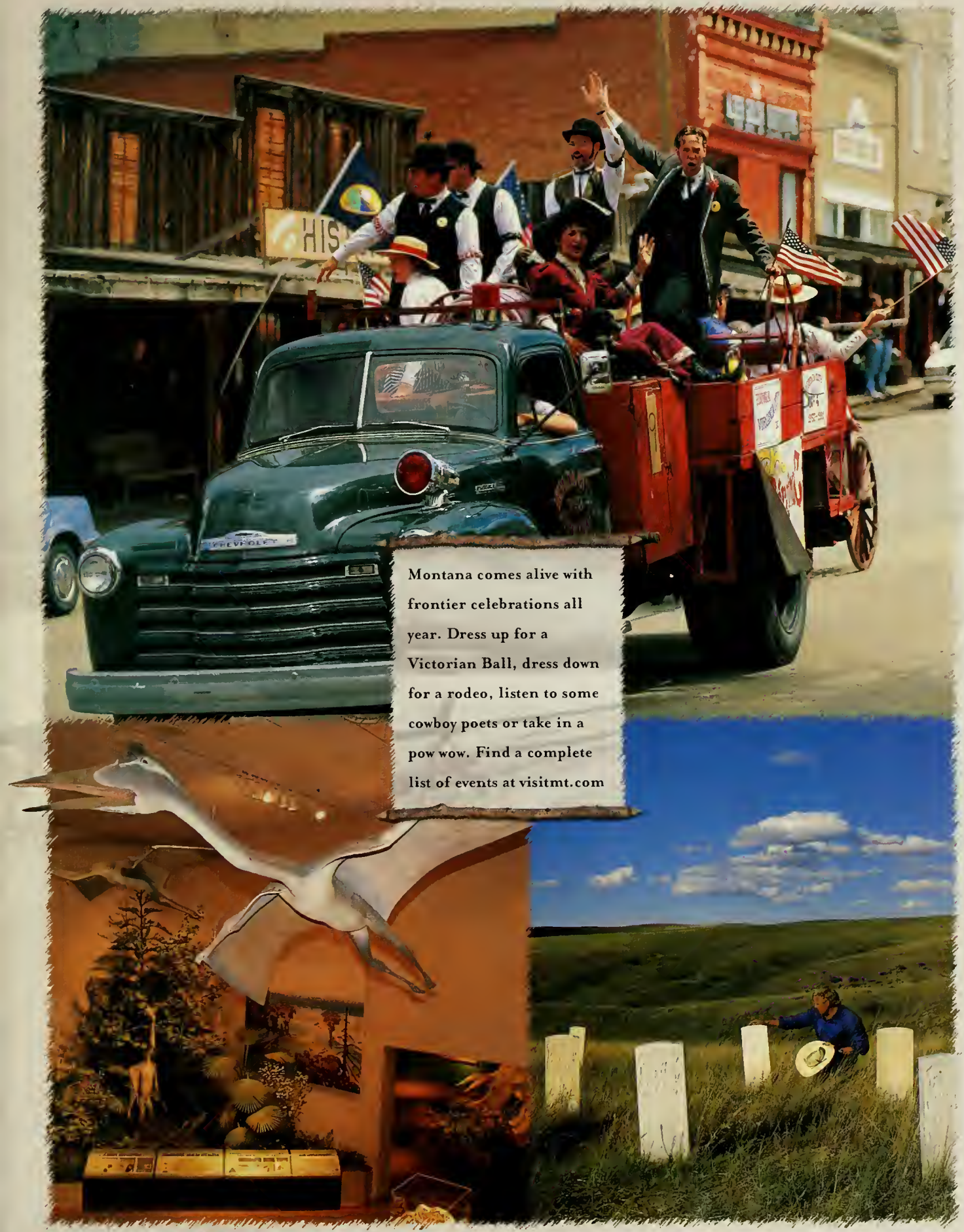
Montanans of today find great joy in sharing their stories with others at these wonderfully preserved historic sites. After sampling such a diverse mix, you'll find that Montana isn't just in the west. It is the West.

visitmt.com

Nez Perce National Historic Trail

In the summer of 1877, a band of 800 Nez Perce Indians outmaneuvered the U.S. Army in nearly a dozen battles on a 1,170-mile trek. Today, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail includes four Montana battlefields: "Fort Fizzle," Big Hole Battlefield, Canyon Creek Battlefield and Bear Paw Battlefield. Go to nps.gov/biho to learn more about this historic journey.

Above: Moss Mansion in Billings, Fort Union Trading Post (photos, Donnie Sexton)
Opposite: Virginia City parade (Donnie Sexton), Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman (courtesy Museum/Bruce Seylem), Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (R. Valentine Atkinson)



Montana comes alive with frontier celebrations all year. Dress up for a Victorian Ball, dress down for a rodeo, listen to some cowboy poets or take in a pow wow. Find a complete list of events at visitmt.com

Seek adventure, and find yourself.

Some people look forward to their vacations for rest and relaxation. Others don't have the words "rest" and "relaxation" in their vacation vocabularies. They want to test their mettle rock climbing, running whitewater rapids, mountain biking or casting for the discerning wild trout. If you're that kind of person, Montana is your kind of state.

Fish for trout in legendary rivers and streams: the Big Hole, Bighorn, Madison, Missouri and Yellowstone, to name a few. Or, pull walleye and lake trout from lakes and reservoirs such as Fort Peck, Lake Koocanusa and Bighorn Lake.

For whitewater enthusiasts, Montana has everything from Class I to Class V whitewater, including stretches on rivers like the Clark Fork, Gallatin and Yellowstone. For other water-based adventure, how about boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing or windsurfing?

Not all vehicles in Montana have four wheels; the state is a haven for

visitmt.com

Virtual Reading

If your idea of a vacation doesn't have anything to do with lying around, Montana is your state. And the Montana web site has some online articles you'll want to read. Just check out visitmt.com/falcon/ for ideas on hiking, rafting and fishing. For mountain biking trails see visitmt.com/virtualvisitor/biking/

Above: Kayaking Montana waters (Scott Spiker). Opposite: Bicycling in Big Sky Country (Chuck Haney), saddled up and ready to go (Donnie Sexton)

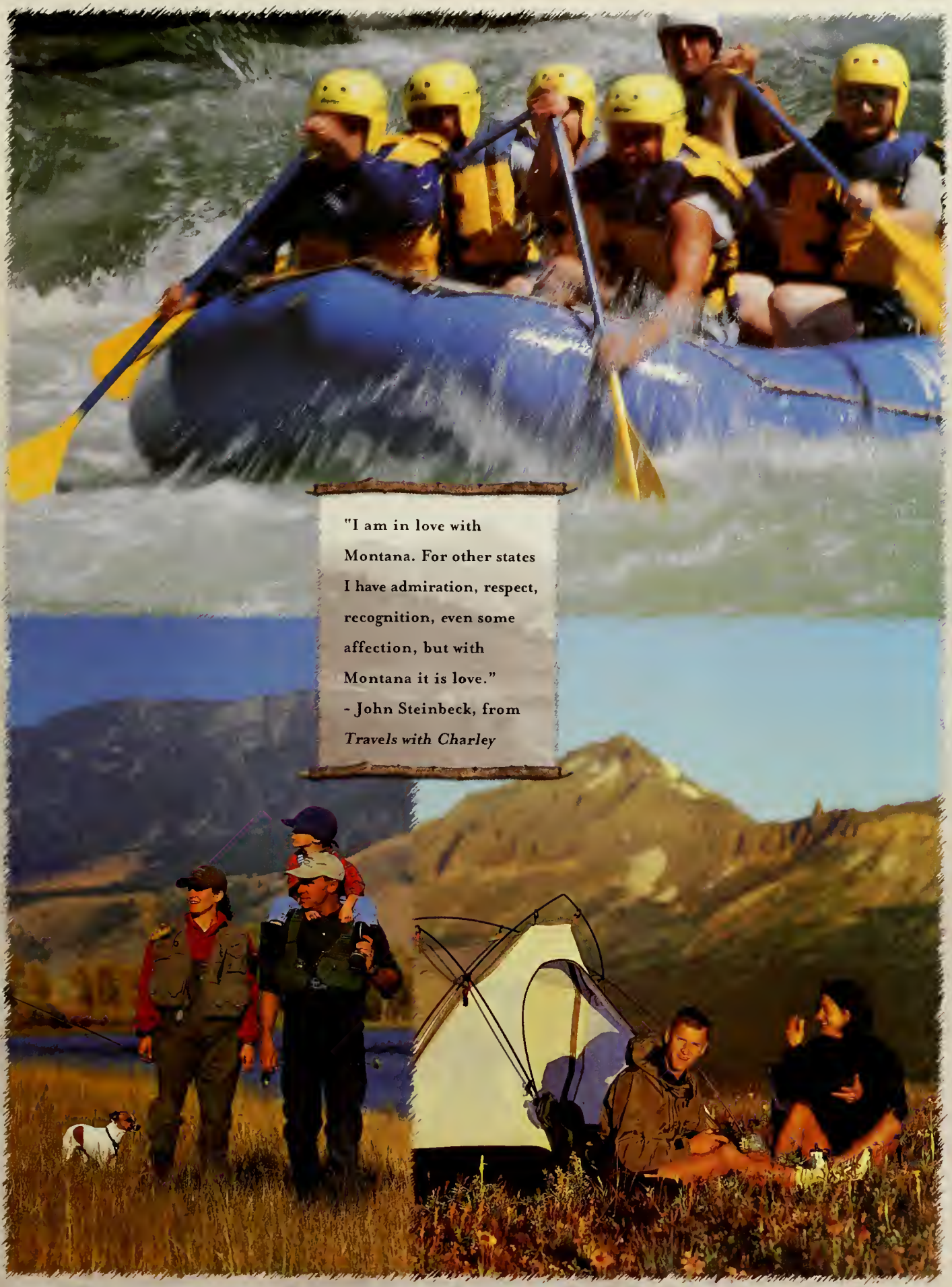
cycling enthusiasts. Maybe it has something to do with the hundreds of mountain bike trails on state lands, national forests and recreation areas. (Not that you have to go off-road to find a trail; cities such as Missoula and Great Falls have extensive urban trail networks.)

Of course, what could be more "Montana" than a horseback ride? You'll find plenty of outfitters ready

to help you saddle up and head out on a scenic trail.

Here is the point: Montana has millions of acres filled with millions of possibilities for adventure. Pack your gear and head out for an adventure you can call your own.

Above: Tee for two (Scott Spiker). Glacier National Park for one (Scott Spiker). Opposite: the thrill of whitewater (Donnie Sexton), family fly fishing (Dusan Smetano), the joy of camping (Chuck Haney)



"I am in love with Montana. For other states I have admiration, respect, recognition, even some affection, but with Montana it is love."
- John Steinbeck, from *Travels with Charley*

You're on the Right Trail.

LEWIS AND CLARK

www.lewisandclark.state.mt.us

Retrace the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through Montana. In just over 28 months—from May 1804 to September 1806—Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled more than 8,000 miles on foot, on horseback and by boat. More than a quarter of that distance was spent in Montana, where much of the land they explored remains unchanged. Follow them through Montana along portions of many state, U.S. and interstate highways, on the map above. Look for the Lewis & Clark Trail sign.

Among the sites are: (1) The scenic White Cliffs of the Missouri River, accessible by river travel only. (2) Fort Benton. (3) Great Falls, with the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center and Giant Springs Heritage State Park, where Clark discovered a huge "fountain or spring" during an 18-mile portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri. (4) The Gates of the Mountains, north of Helena on I-15, where the Missouri flows through a narrow passage flanked by what Lewis described as "the most remarkable clifts that we have yet seen." (5) Missouri Headwaters State Park near Three Forks, where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers join to form the Missouri. (6) Beaverhead Rock State Monument, an important landmark north of Dillon on MT 41. (7) Lemhi Pass, west of Hwy. 324 in southwestern Montana, where Lewis and Clark crossed the Continental Divide on their journey westward. (8) Travelers Rest, near the junction of US 12 and 93 south of Missoula, where the expedition split parties on the return trip east. (9) Lolo Hot Springs, on US 12 southwest of Missoula, where the expedition camped. (10) Lolo Pass Visitor Center, on US 12 at the Montana-Idaho border, which has an interpretive site. (11) Pompeys Pillar, off I-94 east of Billings, where Clark carved his signature in a large sandstone rock along the Yellowstone River.

Commercial boat tours retrace the river route of Lewis and Clark at the Gates of the Mountains (4), and in the scenic White Cliffs area of the Missouri River (1).

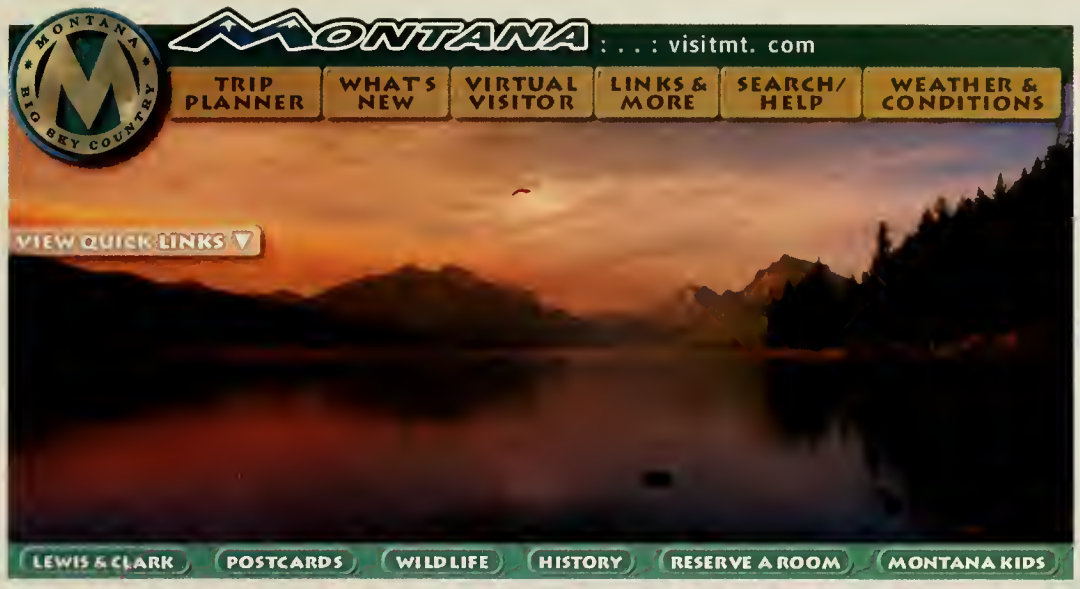
Do some exploring of your own by finding out more about the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition. Bookstores now have the condensed versions of their journals, as well as several excellent guides.

Or, blaze a trail onto the web at lewisandclark.state.mt.us or montanalewisandclark.org for more information and many related links.

Other sources include:

- Travel Montana, 800-VISITMT (847-4868) or 406-444-2654 for a brochure on Montana's Lewis and Clark sites.
- Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, Great Falls, MT. 406-727-8733.

Above: Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls (Victor Bjornberg)



Montana Via Modem.

Exploring Montana online: Start your journey at visitmt.com. From there, you can find out information about lodging and attractions, see a calendar of events, send postcards to friends, sample Montana recipes and even make roam reservations. Just click on any of the main category headings at visitmt.com, or use the "shortcuts" bor to jump to any section of the web site. Other Montana-related web sites of interest include:

indiannations.visitmt.com Details on Montana's Indian reservations and culture

wintermt.com Montana's winter site, covering fun during the snowy season

montanakids.com Specifically designed for kids, including games and other fun

lewisandclark.state.mt.us Montana's Lewis and Clark site, devoted to the Corps of Discovery's journey across our state

wildlife.visitmt.com A watchable wildlife site to some of Montana's other residents

nps.gov/glac/ Glacier National Park

nps.gov/yell/ Yellowstone National Park

state.mt.us State of Montana official home page

fwp.state.mt.us Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

geology.cr.usgs.gov/state/mt.html Montana geological survey

www.dnrc.state.mt.us Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

www.fs.fed.us/r1/ U.S.D.A. Forest Service

www.mt.blm.gov Bureau of Land Management

www.gp.usbr.gov/ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

WEATHER INFORMATION

Western Montana
406-329-4840
Central Montana
406-453-2081
Northeastern Montana
406-228-4042
Southeastern Montana
406-652-1916

AIRLINES

Big Sky Airlines (Northwest Partner)
800-237-7788

Delta/Delta Connection
800-221-1212

Horizon Air (Northwest Partner)
800-547-9308

Northwest Airlines
800-225-2525

SkyWest (Delta Connection)
800-453-9417

Smart Air, Ltd. (Kalispell/Calgary)
877-910-6600

United Airlines/United Express
800-241-6522

AMTRAK

800-872-7245

BUS LINES

Greyhound Lines
800-231-2222

Powder River Transportation
800-442-3682

Rimrock Trailways
800-255-7655

ROAD CONDITIONS

406-444-6339 OR
800-226-ROAD (7623)
Web: mdt.state.mt.us
TTY: 406-444-7696 or
800-335-7592

All Montana phone numbers are reached by area code 406.

Above: Glacier National Park (Donnie Sexton), mountain goat (Donald M. Jones), backcountry hiking (David Falconer)
Back cover: Horsin' around on a warm Montana day. (Dusan Smetana)

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Montana experience is as rewarding as each visitor makes it. Here are some tips to make your trip more enjoyable and assure a quality experience for future visitors:

- Montana has an abundance of public lands, but that comes with a responsibility to protect them. Use extra caution with matches, campfires, cookstoves and other flame sources to prevent wildfires.
- Help preserve our heritage by leaving ghost towns, mining camps and other historical attractions intact. Take photographs, but nothing else.
- Leave Montana's natural features as you find them. Plants and flowers are best enjoyed in their natural state.
- Respect the rights and property of others. Always get permission before entering private land.
- Dispose of trash properly.
- For your safety and theirs, enjoy wildlife from a distance.
- We're known for our friendliness—especially when you respect our traditions, customs and local ordinances.
- Support our economy; look for the Made in Montana label when you shop.